



October 2, 1979

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.  
President, Rockefeller University  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas to invite you to serve as our "Jonsson Visiting Professor" for 1980-81. This Professorship was established in 1977 to honor the Jonsson family. As I am sure you know better than most people, Eric Jonsson and his family, like the other founders and leaders of Texas Instruments, have been remarkable in their support of higher education and scientific research, not only here in Dallas but across the country.

The visit of the Jonsson Professor serves as the leading academic event of the year on our campus. We normally schedule activities over three full days and four evenings, although the same activities could be spread out over four or five days if you preferred to have a less intense itinerary. Most of the time is reserved for informal meetings with small groups of faculty and students. In addition, we would ask that you deliver two 50-minute lectures, one to a regularly scheduled faculty research seminar and one as the "keynote" speaker for our Graduate Student Research Forum (during which six of our students present brief papers that have been selected from abstracts submitted to a faculty committee).

We are extending this invitation a year before the event, in the knowledge that it is difficult for a person in your position to carve out time for an extended out-of-town visit. Our own schedule for 1980-81 is still quite flexible, and almost any week you might choose would be acceptable for us. In general, October and November have been times when other events on campus have been few. February and March are also

Dr. Lederberg  
October 2, 1979  
Page two

months with less competition from other activities and national meetings. But any time would be fine, and if you believe you might be able to accept our invitation, I would ask that you suggest one or more dates that would be most convenient from your own standpoint.

Incidentally, as you may realize, you already have a connection with the Jonsson Professorship: it was during Lewis Thomas' visit as the first Jonsson Professor that you, he, and Pat Haggerty met in our Faculty Club to discuss your accepting your present position. The other Jonsson Professors have been François Jacob and Peter Medawar. It will be a signal honor for our school and, I know, a pleasure for the Jonsson family, if you will be able to join this group as one of the school's Jonsson Professors.

Finally, I should mention that we will be able to provide transportation and all expenses for the visit. The Professorship also carries with it an honorarium of \$3,000.

Again, on behalf of the faculty and students here in Dallas, I want to say how very pleased we would be to have you be the Jonsson Visiting Professor for 1980-81. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely yours,



Kern Wildenthal, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dean  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

KW:ms